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THE AMERICAN COLLEGE BULLETIN

Published by the Council of Church Boards of Education

50c. per annum; 10 or more subscriptions, 40c. each

Executive Secretary, ROBERT L. KELLY
Survey Secretary, B. WARREN BROWN

ISSUED BI-WEEKLY
19 So. La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.

Entered as second class matter October 29, 1917, at the Post Office at Chicago, Illinois, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Volume 1

FEBRUARY 23, 1918

No. 10

HIGHER EDUCATION MOBILIZING

Co-operation among American institutions of higher learning has begun on a grand scale. During the last few months a new consciousness has arisen, not only among educational leaders but in the minds of the general public, as to the real significance and power of our colleges and universities. Now for the first time practically all of the great Associations devoted to higher education—the Association of American Colleges, Association of American Universities, National Association of State Universities, American Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations, Catholic Education Association, Association of Urban Universities, National Education Association, National Council of Education, N. E. A. Department of Superintendence, American Association of University Professors, Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, the National Council of Normal School Presidents, the Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Association for the advancement of Science—are coming together in the formation of “The Emergency Council on Education,” the purpose of which is “to place the resources of the educational institutions of the country more completely at the disposal of the national government and its departments to the end that through an understanding co-operation;

 Their patriotic services may be augmented;

 A continuous supply of educated men may be maintained; and

 Preparation for the great responsibilities of the reconstruction period following the great war may be anticipated.”

One of the great objectives of this Council is the creation of a national Department of Education, whose Secretary shall become a member of the President's Cabinet. A statement embodying the outstanding arguments for this action has been prepared and presented to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education. A bill authorizing the creation of such a Department is now before the Senate and is receiving encouraging support. As the statement says “Since education is universally recognized as the first corollary of democracy it seems incongruous that it should not be recognized as of equal rank in the councils

of the nation with that accorded Commerce, Labor and Agriculture, all of which have representatives in the President's Cabinet."

It is evident that a new day is dawning for higher education in our country, and educational leaders are taking seriously the insistent call for American leaders for the new world-wide democracy.

The Emergency Council has established headquarters in Washington and aggressive activities are in preparation.

PATRIOTISM AND COLLEGE FINANCIAL CAMPAIGNS

A short time ago a letter was sent from the Council headquarters asking the United States Commissioner of Education P. P. Claxton whether in the judgment of the Bureau of Education and Government Officials in general, insofar as he could speak, it is considered an unpatriotic thing on the part of colleges to conduct at the present time financial campaigns.

The following reply will be of interest:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF EDUCATION

Washington, February 6, 1918.

My Dear Mr. Kelly:

Many letters similar in content to yours of January thirty-first come to this office. All these letters show that while college men are eager to preserve the efficiency of their institutions through the war they are equally eager to serve their country in its immediate needs and to do nothing that may be interpreted as showing the desire to shirk their duty or in any way to interfere with the necessary processes of the war. I believe that in this instance there is no necessary conflict.

It is generally conceded that it is of great importance that our colleges and universities remain open and maintain the largest possible degree of efficiency during the war and that they shall be able to meet the larger demands made upon them when the war is over. The safety and welfare of the country demand this. If the colleges and universities continue their work their expenses must be met by appropriations, by income from endowments, from fees or from current gifts. Many of these institutions, both large and small, depend largely on fees and gifts. Fees can not be constantly increased without loss of students and undue hardship for those who remain to pay them. Therefore the current donations must continue and in the case of institutions which have lost students without the possibility of lessening expenses without lowering